

DelDOT's Equipment Inspected And Prepared For Winter

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By Ryan Hughes, Reporter

DOVER, Del. - The East Coast has already been walloped with winter weather. Snow falling in October. And remember back-to-back blizzards in 2009, coining the term "Snowmageddon." Snow blanketing the Eastern Shore, and plows left working around the clock cleaning up Delmarva's roadways.

"After the big blizzard happened we were able to see some of the deficiencies and some of the processes we had," said Jim Westhoff, Spokesman for DelDOT.

Almost two years later, DelDOT is ahead of a storm ready to take on mother Nature. Good thing, because the Farmer's Almanac is predicting colder than normal temperatures this winter and off course snow. "It's just a matter of timing and planning and planning ahead," said Johnny Webb, a Maintenance Equipment Operator for DelDOT.

And that they are doing. More than a month out from winter DelDOT is inspecting and showing off their arsenal of snow plowing equipment. "A lot of these trucks are 7-8 years



old and they look like they just came off the assembly line," said Westhoff.

Freshly painted and prepared for the worst. And officials say running out of salt is not an option. There's about 10,000 tons already on hand their site in Dover. And statewide - there's about 65,000 tons ready and waiting for a storm. "The trucks are ready to go, the people are motivated -- we're ready," said Westhoff.

DelDOT has 450 vehicles on hand and at least 450 people to drive them.



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DeIDOT Puts Snow Plow Drivers Through Snow Storm Simulator

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By Alyana Gomez, Reporter - Email

DOVER, Del. - DeIDOT operators buckled up and took a crash course on snow removal.

"I didn't know what to think. I was kind of nervous about it and it's got a lot of good points a lot of realism," said DeIDOT operator, Carl Wolfe.

Drivers braced themselves for a life-like experience battling blizzard winds and icy roads, in all types of environments. L3 Communications has traveled all over the country with their simulation bus, helping snow plow drivers prepare for this year's storms.

"It's training that can be offered throughout the year, rather than trying to once the snow is actually on the road. That's when we need them fully prepared to drive," said DeIDOT spokesman, Gary Laing.

DeIDOT says 64 of their operators got behind the wheel for the simulated test. They say they hope to make this a part of their annual training.